

Policy 2017

Foreign Affairs



Being a global citizen

From our backyard in the South Pacific and the Antarctic to global forums and trouble spots, National is ensuring New Zealand's views and values are heard and taken into account.

We are committed to enhancing New Zealand's hard won reputation as an honest broker and considered voice and as a proponent of peace and human rights across the world.

We will continue to do our bit to combat terror, maintain international peace and stability, support victims of conflict and disaster and protect our environment.

And we will continue to ensure our Pacific neighbourhood is prosperous and secure, and work to improve lives there and in other parts of the world through development assistance.

"We will continue to do our bit to combat terror, maintain international order, support victims of conflict and disaster and protect our international environment."

**- Foreign Affairs spokesperson
Gerry Brownlee**

Policy highlights

- Successful two-year membership of the UN Security Council, advocating strong positions on major global issues
- Played a key role in creating the world's largest Marine Protected Area in the Ross Sea region of the Antarctic
- Contributed to the fight against ISIS by training thousands of Iraqi soldiers
- Continued to ensure the voices of the Pacific are heard internationally in areas which affect them, including climate change
- Increased our aid programme to over \$650m a year, with a focus on the South Pacific as well as disaster and humanitarian relief
- Significant investment for our ongoing stewardship of Antarctica, including redeveloping Scott Base
- Supporting leaders from developing countries through scholarships to study in New Zealand and the Pacific, helping ensure strong international connections

National is...

Supporting developing countries

- In the 2017/18 year New Zealand will spend around \$644m on overseas development assistance – 60 per cent of it in the Pacific
- Beyond the Pacific we provide development assistance to countries in Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, helping improve lives
- The present three-year \$1.7b New Zealand Aid Programme has a core focus on providing sustainable economic development, value for money and mutual accountability
- Much of this spending is focused on the areas most important to developing nations, including renewable energy, agriculture, ICT, economic governance, health, fisheries, tourism, education, trade and labour mobility

New Zealand will provide \$644m on overseas development in the 2017/18 year

Tackling the tough issues

- We used our seat on the UN Security Council to speak up for small countries on global security issues
- Pushed for an end to permanent members of the Security Council retaining a right of veto, and championed greater conflict prevention and resolution by the Council
- New Zealand has maintained a presence in over 40 peacekeeping operations around the world since 1948, in more than 25 countries
- At present we have peacekeeping troops in South Sudan and the Middle East
- We work closely with the UN to help the more than 50 million refugees and internally displaced people in the world today, including being one of 27 countries with an annual refugee resettlement programme
- From 2018 New Zealand's annual refugee resettlement programme will increase from 750 to 1000 places
- Through the UN we support humanitarian measures and human rights, promoting the rights of people affected by armed conflict
- New Zealand plays a major role in removing and destroying unexploded landmines across the world from the Middle East to Africa and Southeast Asia, and we support the Mine Ban Treaty outlawing the production of landmines

National is...

Doing our bit on climate change

- Signed and ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, ensuring we do our bit
- Set an ambitious target to reduce our emissions by 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030
- Reached more than 85 per cent renewable electricity, and targeting 90 per cent by 2025
- Set up working groups to advise on how we adapt to climate change, encourage more forestry and make our agriculture more sustainable
- Investigating the economic opportunities of different ways of reducing emissions



"We have focused on ensuring strong relationships with likeminded countries around the world because we do better when we work together."

— Prime Minister and National Party Leader
Bill English

Leading the push for free trade

- Free Trade is vital to our future – exports now account for more than \$70b of our national income, and more than 620,000 New Zealanders depend on exports for their jobs
- National will pursue the ambitious goal of 90 per cent of New Zealand's goods exports being covered by Free Trade Agreements by 2030
- In the next term we aim to complete FTA negotiations with the Trans-Pacific Partnership 11, the Pacific Alliance grouping (Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru), and RCEP countries including Southeast Asia
- Give priority to negotiations with India, Russia, and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries
- We will also launch FTA negotiations with the European Union, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka, and the Mercosur countries including Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay
- We will upgrade our current FTA arrangements with China, Singapore, and Southeast Asia

National is...

Keeping the world secure

- At any one time over 500 New Zealand Defence Force personnel are representing New Zealand around the world
- We're training Iraqi soldiers in the fight against ISIS
- Additional NZ engineers have been sent to the Sinai Peninsula to deliver key infrastructure projects for the Multinational Force & Observers peacekeeping contingent
- Supporting our US allies by deploying the HMNZS Te Kaha to support the Seventh Fleet



We invest around \$644m a year in aid and disaster and humanitarian relief including \$27m so far in support for victims of the war in Syria



What we will do next...

- Support the defeat of global terror groups through investment in worthwhile campaigns and sharing of information
- Deepen our relations with countries where we could benefit from greater trade and people-to-people relations, such as South and Central America
- Promote New Zealand's views on freedom of individuals to express themselves and their views without fear of suppression or discrimination